

REMARKS

After the present amendment claims 1-106, 110-112, 116-125, 148-149 and 210-213 are pending. Claims 1, 124 and 125 are amended. Claims 210-213 are added.

Claims 150-208 which were added in the previous amendment are now the subject of a divisional application. Claims 209, 210, 212 and 213 are added to claim additional, previously unclaimed, features of the invention as disclosed. Claim 211 is added to claim a feature of claim 1 that has been cancelled in claims 1, as described below.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courteous interview granted applicants representative, Dr. Paul Fenster on 31 January 2005. The following comments include a summary of the discussion at the interview.


Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to avoid art unrelated to bones. While several alternatives were discussed at the interview, applicants have chosen a simpler definition which has the same effect as requested by the Examiner. With the amendment it is considered that the cancelled subject matter in claim 1 is no longer necessary to provide patentability and this limitation is now claimed in claim 211.

In addition, claims 1 and 125 have been amended to further distinguish over the prior art. In the prior art, the original surface is not present between axially spaced peaks. Claims 1 and 125 have also been amended to make a distinction between the *contour* of the initial surface and the surface itself. This difference was inherent in the claim as filed, so that no substantial change in the claim has been made by this amendment.

In view of the above remarks, applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the prior art. If the Examiner does not agree regarding one or more of the claims, but is of the opinion that a telephone conversation may forward the present application toward allowance, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned at 1 (877) 428-5468. Please note that this is a direct *toll free* number in the US that is answered in the undersigned's Israel office. Israel is 7 hours ahead of Washington. Our normal work week is Sunday through Thursday.

Respectfully submitted,  
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